E
Distr. LIMITED

E/ECA/PSD.3/12
E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/12/Rev.1
30 January 1984
Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Session of the Joint Conference of
African Planners, Statisticians and
Demographers

Addis Ababa, 5-14 March 1984

REPORT OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON A SYSTEM OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR AFRICAN PLANNERS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23-27 January 1984

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
General Discussion on the Definition, Selection and Use of Socio-economic Indicators (Agenda Item 3).....	3
The design of an integrated system of socio-economic indicators for planning (Agenda Item 4)	6
The use of socio-economic indicators in planning (Agenda Item 5)	10
Sectoral indicators (Agenda Item 6)	12
(a) Health indicators	12
(b) Indicators for agricultural development	13
(c) Indicators for planning employment, manpower and education	13
(d) Indicators for women's status qnd participation in development	14
Statistical requirements for development indicators (Agenda Item 7)	15
Recommendations and Conclusions (Agenda Item 8)	17
Appendix: Proposed list of indicators for use by African planners	

INTRODUCTION

1. The Expert Consultation on a System of Socio-economic Indicators for African Planners was held at ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 23 to 27 January 1984. The meeting was opened by Mr. W.M. Wamalwa, Officer-in-Charge of the ECA on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji who was away on mission.

2. The meeting was attended by the following national experts: Mr. Ibrahim El Issawy, Institute of National Planning, Cairo; Mr. Meshesha Getahun, Senior Research Expert, Central Planning Supreme Council, Ethiopia; Mme Y. Kone, Ministère de l'économie et des finances, Côte d'Ivoire; Mr. Peter Mayeye, Assistant Government Statistician, Tanzania; Mr. Mohammed Moussa, Institute National de la Statistique, Tunisia, Mr. Gibson Mandishona, Central Statistical Office, Zimbabwe.

3. The following attended asobservers: M. Mohoungou Rouis, Economic Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Congo, Addis Ababa; Mme Alice Nombella, 2nd Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Congo, Addis Ababa; Mr. Lubosech Uwe, Third Secretary. GDR Embassy, Addis Ababa.

4. The meeting was also attended by the following observers from international and inter-governmental organizations: Mr. R. Johnston, Chief, United Nations Statistical Office, New York; Mr. Th. Yoo, Programme Specialist Division of Socio-economic Analysis, UNESCO, Paris; Mr. C.V.G. Nair, WHO Regional Office, Brazzaville. The FAO was represented by Mr. G. Coker of the Joint FAO-ECA Agriculture Division.

5. The meeting elected Mr. Peter Mayeye, United Republic of Tanzania as Chairman.

6. The following agenda was adopted:

(i) Address by the Executive Secretary of the ECA.

(ii) Selection of Chairman and adoption of Agenda of the Meeting.

(iii) General discussion on the definition, selection and use of socio-economic indicators.

(iv) The design of an integrated system of socio-economic indicators for planning.

(v) The use of socio-economic indicators in planning.

(vi) Sectoral indicators;

- indicators for short-term economic forecasting
- indicators for agricultural development
- indicators for planning, employment, manpower and education
- indicators for women's status and participation in development.

(vii) Statistical requirements for development indicators.

(viii) Recommendations and conclusions.

7. In his opening statement, Mr. Wamalwa reminded participants that the present consultations were being held in response to a request of the last Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers for a panel of experts to be convened to draw up a list of indicators for use by African planners.

8. He noted that indicators have recently come into general use in response to a "deeply felt" need of measuring development in a better way. In his opinion, the commonly accepted yardstick, the GDP, was an indispensable instrument but one which suffered from various limitations, the most serious being that distributional aspects of development were not taken into account. Moreover, being a monetary macro-economic measure, the GDP did not capture important elements of the real economy.

9. Mr. Wamalwa noted that indicators have been widely used in social studie and in this regard recalled the important contribution of the United Nations Social Research Institute, UNESCO and the United Nations Statistical Office which have done fundamental work in clearing up the ground and bringing about basic concepts and techniques.

10. He underlined the difficulties involved in the definition and selection of indicators, and particularly the pitfalls presented by the well known deficiencies of information in the African region. In spite of this, he was convinced that it was still possible to build useful indicators and at least make provisions for improving the present state of the art.

11. The concept of development he said was not a simple one. However the Lagos Plan of Action provided us with a useful guideline to orient our work and define the main categories of indicators needed.

12. He finally drew the attention of the participants to the special need for indicators delineating the status of inter-African co-operation and integration which, in his opinion, represented a fundamental condition for the socio-economic development of the continent as a whole. He also stressed the urgency of the need for specific indicators in the social fields and for indicators measuring the involvement of women in development.

General Discussion on the Definition, Selection and Use of Socio-economic Indicators (Agenda Item 3)

13. A repr sentative of the secretariat, introduced document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/3 entitled "Definition, selection and use of socio-economic indicators". He drew attention to the growing importance of indicators in planning and monitoring development, in crystalizing development goals and objectives and in assessing socio-economic problems in general. Unlike purely economic measures of development, they additionally capture social aspects and in this they provide a set of measurements that could enable the description of the complexities of the development process. In this sense socio-economic indicators could be viewed as statistics or functions of statistics selected to provide measurements in a specific conceptual framework. He noted that in Africa, because of deficiency of information both in quantity and quality, there was a pressing need to explore all the possibilities offered by these indicators. The definition of socio-economic indicators would of course depend on the conceptual framework or philosophy of development adopted allowing thereby the definition of the variables to be measured, the mutual relationships between these variables as well as their relationships with the statistics from among which the indicators will be selected. The need for a conceptual framework for the effective definition of indicators, meant however that it could not be possible to define socio-economic indicators in a unique and unambiguous way, since there was no universally accepted theory of development. In spite of this, the representative of the secretariat stated that it was necessary to design a set of indicators that reflected a common core of concepts, objectives, goals and values in Africa, most of which had been amply highlighted in the Lagos Plan of Action and in other resolutions in the social and economic fields, which along with well meaning objectives and goals, included economic integration and self-reliance.

14. He underlined the statistical difficulties and costs involved, but nonetheless urged that these should not discourage us from proposing a set of indicators reflecting these aspects, bearing in mind future needs and possibilities. In his opinion the selected indicators should cover such aspects as human resources; modernization; income and economic growth; self-reliance; inter-African co-operation; health and welfare. This list, he noted, was only indicative.

15. The representative of the United Nations Statistical Office presented document ST/ESA/STAT/102, entitled "Progress Report on National and International Work on Social Indicators". He drew attention to work already initiated at the United Nations Secretariat in the development of systems of social indicators. He also reviewed national and international activities and efforts todevelop indicators in specific fields with particular emphasis on the development of practical concepts and methods. He noted that at the national level, work on social indicators was proceeding along several channels including compilation and publication of compendia, development of methods for the measurement of trends and levels of socio-economic statistics in the social fields; development of data and indicators for special groups and design of

social statistical framework. He mentioned that at the international level, there was ongoing work on general developmental and applied programmes as well as on the development of indicators on special fields. At the secretariat level work was carried out on fields of social concern and social indicators within the context of the integration of social, demographic and related economic statistics. Preliminary guidelines had been published designed to provide a view of concepts of social indicators which have been advanced in national and international work and of their present stage of development, and to show how social indicators may be formulated parallel with the development of a framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics. He said that a general consensus was gradually building up on the main issues which indicators were to address, and on which work could progress. He further emphasized that social indicators had to be based on a wide statistical base. Of particular advantage in this field, was household budget survey data because of their flexibility and the fact that they covered the entire population in a systematic and comprehensive manner. He further observed that taking the system of national accounts as a basis for constructing social indicators would be an attractive idea and might tempt many countries to initiate work on development indicators.

16. The representative of UNESCO presented E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/6 entitled "Social Indicators: A review of work in UNESCO". He outlined his organization's efforts in the field of socio-economic indicators initiated since the 1973-1974 biennium, which marked a shift in emphasis from previous activities dealing with human resources indicators going back to 1967. UNESCO's approach to social indicators, was neither entirely research-oriented nor directed towards developing lists of indicators. Instead, it emphasised the specification and use of indicators by the different member States themselves, taking into account their social, economic and cultural aspects. Within this context, UNESCO arranged a number of meetings and carried out several studies in different regions, examining the applicability of socio-economic indicators in development planning or reviewing the availability of data for the construction of these indicators and organizing seminars in different countries to identify the important social concerns for which indicators could be constructed. In recent years methodological studies on the elaboration of appropriate indicators and case studies of their use in countries had been undertaken. The aim of UNESCO's work in this field, he emphasised, was not to prepare generally agreed upon lists of social indicators to be recommended for use by all member States but co-operate with them in identifying social concerns and designing the social indicators best suited to their socio-economic context for use in development planning. The future orientation of UNESCO activities in the area of socio-economic indicators will be more and more towards their practical use through concrete projects such as the UNDP Sahel Project (Planification socio-économique de la région du Sahel).

17. In the discussion that followed the attention given in the document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/3 to concepts like social welfare and social well-being and collective self-reliance as building blocks in the construction of socio-economic indicators was commended. It was observed however that the objective of bridging the gap between developing and developed countries was probably impractical as a social objective at this stage. Aiming at closing the health gap, for instance, was perhaps a more plausible objective, it was noted. Moreover it was suggested that direct measures of income in Africa should be avoided since these were unreliable or incomplete and ignored large sections of communities. Likewise, the concept of modernization should be seen in the African social context and, for that matter, it should be related to such relevant criteria as access to modern communication facilities, use of renewable resources in development and should also reflect changes in productivity. Participation not only in political issues but more importantly also in decision making was seen as an important social indicator and akin to the all important political will to enhance socio-economic development.

18. The monitoring and analysis of socio-economic trends in a systematic manner was impeded by the dearth or scarcity of data which some participants believed to be more a problem of data being scattered than being unavailable. One method for augmenting the socio-economic data base, it was emphasised, was the widening of the use of household budget surveys complemented by specialized surveys covering various fields and groups of people.

19. The representative of the WHO noted that while our aim should be the establishment of a minimum list of relevant indicators, it was pertinent that we draw on lists of indicators already agreed to by the countries themselves. In the health field for instance, about twelve indicators have already been approved by member States of WHO, and these should readily be included in the proposed list.

20. It was however observed that in preparing the list of the relevant socio-economic indicators, caution should be exercised to be as specific as possible and lend all possible assistance to the practical statistician who would be required to prepare the necessary data. One feasible approach is to proceed in concerted phases allowing adaptation of internationally applied concepts to local conditions which will of course involve considerable efforts on methodology and experimentation before such concepts could prove useful and acceptable. What is in fact needed is a balance of possibilities between now and the future.

21. One participant gave an account of efforts in his country to develop socio-economic indicators. In his opinion there was considerable merit in constructing two-way matrices of socio-economic indicators which could be closely related to national accounts. For that, one needed a definition of national priorities and should also carry out original investigation on methods of elaboration, and monitoring of these indicators, taking into consideration the environment in which they were to be applied.

The design of an integrated system of socio-economic indicators for planning (Agenda Item 4)

22. Professor El-Issawy presented his paper entitled: "Towards a set of socio-economic indicators for development planning in Africa" (E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/9). In his presentation, Professor El-Issawy spoke about the key words in the title of the document. The word "Towards" was meant to imply that the paper was only a preliminary attempt at the design of an integrated set of socio-economic indicators for development planning in Africa. Some of the indicators were not precisely defined, and the types of disaggregation presented were only tentative. Moreover, there were still considerable practical difficulties in constructing indicators that could appropriately capture such new concepts as participation, self-reliance, the environment, information improvement etc., which have now become important dimensions of development but which have yet to be precisely defined and expressed in measurable terms.

23. The paper dealt with "a set" rather than "a system" of indicators because a system of indicators presupposes the existence of a theory on which the essential property of a system namely the logical inter-connection and cohesion of its component parts is based. Currently there exists no theory to define and construct social indicators; all that was readily available was a number of guiding principles which could be intelligently utilized to establish a set of indicators with some measure of consistency.

24. Socio-economic indicators as used in the title of the document were to be broadly interpreted to include all development indicators; social, economic, cultural, political, etc. The paper therefore covers all aspects or dimensions of development except those which cannot be measured even by proxy. A notable exception was military dependence, reliable information on which was usually not available.

25. Professor El-Issawy stressed that there was need to incorporate indicators of the types suggested in the paper in the processes of development planning and monitoring. This was a good starting point for extending the planners' view far beyond the limited horizon of macro-economic aggregates. The level of planning to which the indicators presented in the paper were related was the uppermost level of the process of planning and decision-making. This however, did not neeessarily mean that all indicators would be national aggregates. Indicators must mirror the diversities in a country. It might moreover at times be desirable at the national level to consider certain matters pertaining to the regional, sectoral, or even the commodity levels.

26. To the extent that indicators should possess the capacity to point out progress towards or retreat from desired socio-economic goals, they should be related to the goals and processess of development and be formulated by combining measures of actual events with relevant goals, norms or cut-off points. Indicators constructed for use in Africa must therefore reflect Africa's developmental goals and aspirations as embodied in the Lagos Plan of Action. Development as perceived in the Lagos Plan is a dynamic process

encompassing both economic growth and social justice as integrated parts of a structural transformation aiming at national reconstruction through national and collective self-reliance and popular participation. The impulse of economic growth would in this process be domestically generated and great emphasis would be placed on the satisfaction of basic needs.

27. Professor El-Issawy noted that objective indicators were generally preferred to subjective or perception indicators. However perception indicators could yield valuable information on such aspects of development as participation, social cohesion, quality of services etc. for which objective measures were not readily available. Perception indicators should therefore be used as supplements rather than substitutes to objective indicators. Likewise composite indicators could be used as supplements to single indicators particularly in respect of certain purposes and at certain level of planning and plan review e.g. the regional and sectoral levels.

28. Development indicators for Africa needed to be selected using criteria based on the peculiarities of the region and specifically not on criteria which are applicable only to advanced industrialized countries. Africa was distinguished from advanced countries by, inter-alia, poor statistical systems, weak planning institutions and traditions, the exis ence of large non-monetized and informal sectors, a large proportion of intra-regional trade taking place outside official channels, high rates of illiteracy and a heterogenous social structure.

29. In the light of the above considerations, Professor Issawy proposed 8 categories of indicators for Africa and identified 186 indicators of which 120 needed to be constructed annually. The following were the 8 broad categories:

(i) Basic needs satisfaction

(ii) Participation in development - including employment, equity, and involvement of people in planning and decision-making

(iii) National security

(iv) Economic performance

(v) Collective self-reliance

(vi) Demographic phenomena

(vii) Information improvement

(viii) Special national concerns.

30. In the discussion that followed the presentation of document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/9 participants generally commended the paper for its comprehensiveness and for its competent treatment of a complex subject. It was thought that the paper constituted a significant contribution to the indicator movement and would stimulate parallel efforts in other regions.

31. There was general agreement with the general principles and assumptions for indicator selection and construction in the African context. Development was viewed essentially as implying increases in levels of income, modernization, increase in social welfare and equity in the distribution of development benefits.

It was also generally agreed that all types of indicators: single, composite, objective and perceptive indicators could be used as supplements to each other to capture various development aspects. The approach adopted in the paper to work towards a set rather than a system of indicators at the national central planning level was also generally endorsed.

32. A number of participants raised questions as to the appropriateness of the classification of indicators presented in the paper and various suggestions for reclassification were made. It was agreed that at the end of the consultations a list of indicator categories would be recommended to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. Specifically it was querried that in view of its importance in the African region agriculture and rural development were not adequately covered in the proposed list of indicators. The suggestion was made that they be treated as a separate category. To this it was pointed out that since the point of departure chosen in the paper for indicator selection was the national level, sectors were not individually treated. Nevertheless there were several indicators on agriculture and rural development as well as on all other sectors but these were dispersed widely across many of the categories of indicators. It was furthermore suggested that employment needed to be treated as a separate category. There was also need to capture the quality and relevance of education and as such education should stand by itself as a sub-category. It was pointed out that military expenditure constituted a large drain on valuable and limited financial resources and it was possible to construct indicators to capture this item by using trade statistics of supplier countries, data from balance of payments, etc. It was, however, generally agreed that what was needed was reliable information on military dependence as a whole and this was rarely available. It was suggested that there was a need to include not only indicators on technology but also on science; indicators were in particular needed on the acquisition and dissemination of technology. Transport inadequacies and bottlenecks constituted real problems in the distribution of goods and services essential for economic growth and development. For this and other reason it was agreed that transport and communication should be included in any list of development indicators. Corruption and economic mismanagement have become important impediments to the attainment of desired development goals and objectives. It was recognized that while these were phenomena that defied precise measurement, their significance was such that they should feature in the proposed list of indicators under special national concerns and such proxies as resource wastages, bribery, embezzelement and profiteering be used to measure them. Foreign aid and debt service were also issues to be included among the list of indicators, because of their importance and significant effect on development.

33. A number of participants felt that the list of indicators identified was too long and proposed that the list be reduced to a minimum of core indicators backed up by one or more longer lists. This was agreeable to most participants provided that these lists were regarded as stages or phases in a long-term programme to apply all the indicators.

34. The point was made that there was a need to consider how to construct and apply the proposed set of indicators in practice. Statistical offices in Africa were not well equipped to undertake the additional tasks called for in indicator construction and use. There was need to augment the physical and human resources of these offices. National data bases needed to be significantly improved to permit the derivation of indicators. A multidisciplinary approach was called for as well as a continuous dialogue between statisticians and the users of data. While it was recognized that these were significant factors to be concerned with, the question of implementation should not at this stage of the art, be allowed to cloud the ongoing search for agreement on the concepts, coverage and types of indicators. Likewise the fear of overburdening statistical offices with new concepts and methods when they were preoccupied with basic data collection should also not deter work on indicator construction at the national level. It was all a question of priorities.

35. It was noted that the potential role of national accounts as a framework for the organisation of planning methods and services as well as for the formulation of social indicators was not fully exploited. Some of the areas in which the accounts could yield pertinent information included institutional changes accompanying development, the role of government, labour force participation and the role and contribution of women in development.

36. Regarding criteria for the selection of indicators, it was suggested that an important consideration was that an indicator should be easily understood and have policy relevance. Another important consideration was the extent of comparability at the national and international levels. Yet another consideration was the capacity of an indicator to measure trends over time.

37. With regards to the level of disaggregation used in the proposed list of indicators, it was suggested that differential access by sex should be more thoroughly considered. The degree of disaggregation, it was noted, was however limited at the national level of planning to which the proposed indicators were related.

38. One participant suggested that the proposed list of indicators should be accompanied by columns indicating the type of information needed for each indicator, the source of information and the degree of classification. The same participant thought it was possible to construct an indicator accounting matrix which can cross-classify input and output concepts in a one page summary.

The use of socio-economic indicators in planning (Agenda item 5)

39. Under this agenda item the participant from the Ivory Coast, Mrs. Y. Kone, presented a paper on "Short-term economic indicators (the Ivorian experience) (E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/4). Mrs. Kone explained that her paper was concerned with the use of indicators for short-term economic forecasting with a time horizons not exceeding one year. This work carried out by a specific unit of the Ivorian Ministry of Finance, the "Direction de la Prevision (Forecasting Department)" which was responsible on the one hand for drawing up every year the "economic budget", in a national accounting framework, and on the other hand to produce forecasts of fiscal revenue and the economy at large, for a very short-term perspective. The Department, works in close collaboration with various institutions among which were the BCEAO (Central Bank of West African States), the Statistical Office, etc. which provided basic information. For information on the international economy recourse was usually made to several sources, including the OECD, the United Nations, etc.

40. 34 indicators classified into 7 groups were used. These indicators were already being used in practical forecasting work, and their number had grown from a mere 10,5 years ago. The groups were the following: economic performance, final demand, stocks, trade, prices, money and a systematic indicator. There were other indicators, which were not available to the general public.

41. The building of the indicators from raw statistical data was based on various techniques and particularly seasonal adjustment. The expert gave at this point a detailed account of the nature of each indicator used and of the source of data. Some problems however arose when the results were compared with the estimates of national accounts, particularly for petroleum products. The indicators are used for a number of purposes other than providing forecasts of economic activity: in particular in studies of the response mechanisms of the Ivorian economy to specific changes. The indicators are also used as inputs of a forecasting short-term econometric model which was maintained in co-operation with the Ministry of Planning. A copy of the model had been made available to the secretariat.

42. In the discussion that followed it was remarked that the paper dealt only with half the story since social indicators were not included, but what was described was a good step forward. Some questions were raised regarding the periodicity of some of the surveys quoted as a source of data, the use of household surveys, the reason why housing had been comitted in the price index, for European type consumption and the treatment of the informal sector by the indicators described. The question w s asked as to whether the indicators were used for extrapolation purposes. A participant questioned the relevance of short-term economic indicators to the issue of development indicators, though the approach was useful. The differentiation made between European and African type consumption which could be a legacy of the colonial past was also questioned. It was proposed that this type of indicators be included in a more general set of indicators of which development indicators would be the core, with satellite sets of indicators for economic management, agriculture, etc.

43. In her response, Mrs. Kone emphasized that her department was concerned with short-term economic forecasting, (very short-term, at 3 months, and short-term up to two years) long term economic prospects were handled by the Ministry of Planning. This was the reason why social indicators were not included at this stage, though this could be done in the future. The problem of data had to be taken into account here, and in particular the publication of the results of a household survey conducted with the aid of the United Nations was not yet complete. Housing was difficult to estimate because of the high cost of statistical studies, estimates were made through financing institutions, and by using building permits. There was a very large number of expatriates in Ivory Coast who had a deep impact on consumption, and at the same time a significant section of Ivoirian households had a consumption pattern similar to that of the expatriates. It was therefore important and necessary to have an index for European style consumption. Housing was not included in that index because expatriates did not generally pay for housing since they were working for aid administrations. With regards to the use of indicators for extrapolation, it was pointed out the indicators were used for forecasting with a short time horizon. Because of the lack of data, it was necessary to make use of fiscal returns to estimate income, but improvements were being made all the time in the quality of data. The index of industrial activity was an index of the opinions of businessmen on the status of the markets, sales, stocks, etc. (qualitative index).

44. A member of the secretariat intervening at this stage, indicated that short-term economic indicators would be very useful in the monitoring of plan's execution.

45. The paper entitled "Study of the Present and Potential Use of Socio-economic Indicators in Planning (the Senegalese experience)" (E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/5) was presented by a representative of the secretariat in the absence of the author, Mr. A Mar Dieye, who was unable to attend. The paper focused on two fundamental issues: the use of indicators for projet selection and the integration of indicators in plan preparation. Concerning project selection, the paper outlined a method of grading projects according to their impact and incidence on specific indicators and macroeconomic objectives, so as to obtain through coefficients, a measure of their socio-economic effect. The method depended on the choice of coefficients and weights. With regard to plan preparation, in Senegal, in addition to the conventional pattern of a sole "horizontal" commission to check on overall plan consistency with sectoral or "vertical" commissions, there were a number of horizontal commissions corresponding to the various social concerns which set targets and directives for the vertical commissions. There were a total of 36 commissions for the preparation of the sixth development plan for which the new approach had been applied. Six groups of indicators were used, namely for population, employment, the status of women in the development process, food and nutrition, regional disparities and environment.

46. In the discussion thqt followed it was pointed that the criteria for indicator selection given in the paper raised doubts and were not clear as to their exact meaning. There was a puzzling differentiation between social indicators and macro-economic objectives in the project selection methodology, and this raised in turn the question of descriptive and projective indicators. Another observation was that the paper was very positive but what was said about the possibility of collecting data on women's participation and status was not quite correct since quite a body of indicators and measurements was available. (See the United Nations brochure entitled "Compiling sound indicators on the situation of women"). The representative of UNESCO remarked that the dialogue between different planning commissions was a stimulating example of the use of social indicators. The list of indicators given in the paper was the result of work carried out by Sahel countries. Concerning indicators on women he recalled the 1981 meeting organized by UNESCO on the subject and brought to the attention of the meeting that a manual for the use of women's indicators has been prepared by UNESCO. Another participant remarked that the list of indicators was not a country specific list, it was not exhaustive and there was quite a number of inconsistencies.

47. In concluding the discussion on the paper, the representative of the secretariat said that if the paper raised some questions as to the exact contents of the methods described and required more information, it was nevertheless a very interesting and encouraging account of the possibilities opened by the use of indicators in planning. Moreover, it was suggested that a meeting on the methodology of indicator use in development planning should be organized in the near future. The proposal met with general approval from the participants, but it was however remarked that the question was one of timing and organizing the work programme of the secretariat for the biennium 1986-1987.

Sectoral indicators (agenda item 6)

(a) Health indicators

48. A document entitled "Indicators for Planning and Management (E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/7), was presented by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO). The representative stated that much work has been done by WHO in defining health objectives and goals and in providing a framework for the formulation of national strategies and plans of action. The Alma-Ata declaration and the WHO resolutions concerning the objective of Health for all by the year 2000 provided the framework within which each country could specify its priorities to strengthen health systems. A list of 12 global indicators have been elaborated to constitute the minimum requirements for the implementation of the "Health for All" programme.

49. The representative pointed out that since 1980, out of 45 African countries, only 3 to 5 have been able to report fully on the indicators. WHO's monitoring exercise had revealed a number of problems. It was clear that there was a significant lack of co-ordination at the national and intersectoral level. Capacity for monitoring the implementation of the programme and for evaluating efficiency and effectiveness was weak. Some progress has been made, but this has been little and slow.

50. In the discussion that followed, one participant pointed out that it would be desirable to add some indicators to the WHO indicator list reflecting the accessibility to, and the quality and capacity of health services. Another participant suggested that at least one indicator reflecting the share of the population suffering some kind of serious disabilities should be added to the list. References were also made to the Tunisian and Zimbabwean experiences in the construction of health indicators.

(b) Indicators for agricultural development

51. A member of the secretariat presented document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/10 entitled "Indicators for Agricultural Development". He drew the attention of the Conference to certain goals in connection with agricultural development as enunciated by the Lagos Plan of Action based on which, countries of the region were to formulate their own developmental objectives namely: self-sufficiency in food production, agricultural growth, elimination of rural poverty, growth with equity, better food security and the prevention of food losses. He referred to the suggested list of agricultural indicators as given in the document which dealt with the various areas of concern in establishing goals for agricultural development; in assessing the role of agriculture in the economy; in the formulation of developmental measures; and for implementation and evaluation purposes.

52. He mentioned that because of the nature and importance of agriculture in the lives of the people and in the economies of the countries of the region, it was inevitable that agricultural development objectives be included in the developmental objectives of the other sectors as it was evident from the contents of other papers prepared. It might be more appealing then that agricultural indicators included in the list of indicators under other categories be extracted and regrouped with other agricultural indicators in a separate category of "Indicators for Agricultural and Rural Development".

53. In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the Tunisian experience in the construction of indicators for agricultural development which referred to areas of concern in regard to assessing the role of agriculture in the economy; the establishment of production targets, the projection of production, and the alleviation of poverty.

(c) Indicators for planning employment, manpower and education

54. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/11 "Conceptual framework for identifying labour and employment as indicators for socio-economic development planning". He said that labour and employment have not yet been fully integrated in planning processes in Africa. This was largely because of our inability to agree on the concepts and methods of measurement of these very important components of development. Employment he said has often been treated as a consequence of economic growth rather than a factor affecting the development process as a whole. In his opinion, the level of employment has a direct impact on income distribution and as such, affects the trend and magnitude of such factors as the propensities to save, consume and invest. There was, he said, an urgent need to clarify our

understanding of employment, unemployment and underemployment in the African context. Current concepts have invariably been borrowed from industrialized countries and this has resulted in many features of the employment situation in Africa being overlooked. The identification of the nature of the labour process in the three main sectors namely the formal, informal and the subsistence/agrarian sectors was a necessary precondition for the elaboration of rational human resources utilization policies.

55. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the secretariat was asked to suggest the types of indicators he would propose for labour and employment. He stressed the importance of the rates of employment, unemployed and underemployment. The rate of the educated unemployment was also a useful indicator of resource misallocation in the human resource utilization sector. There was a need to design indicators to measure labour productivity. Hours worked, output and intensity of work were useful yardsticks in this regard. On the whole indicators needed to be built to capture the nature of the labour process in each of the three economic sectors namely the formal, informal and subsistence - agrarian sectors, as well as the interrelations between them.

(d) Indicators for women's status and participation in development

56. Documents E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/8 entitled "Indicators of the integration of women in development in Africa: Developments of the last decade" was introduced by a member of the secretariat who reviewed the work done especially in Africa with respect to the preparation of indicators measuring women's participation in and contribution to development.

57. Among the activities carried out in that area by the United Nations in Africa she mentioned the publication in 1974, of the document entitled "The Data Base for Discussion on the Interrelations between the Integration of Women in Development, their Situation and Population Factors in Africa". The documents proposed a "unit of participation" as a measurement of women's participation in labour and mentioned the crucial importance that an indicator on the contribution of women to GDP would have. Three years later the document "The New International Economic Order: what roles for women" focussed on the comparison of men and women with respect to access to resources available for development. However, in many sectors the study did not identify specific indicators. The theme of comparisons between men and women was reconsidered in depth in the study of Madame Danielle Bazin-Tardieu entitled "L'utilisation des indicateurs economiques dans la recherche pour le développement: discussion et propositions pratiques". The author identified a number of indicators of the contribution of women to economic activities, especially in the agricultural sector.

58. The most important studies carried out in the following years were those sponsored by UNESCO in 1981 on Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda. The studies highlighted the economic importance of the household work of women and were particularly useful for identifying the relationships between social and economic variables. The recommendations of the UNESCO meeting held in Paris in 1980 1/ namely the request for the establishment of indicators of equity on the man/woman relationship and classification of such indicators into socio-economic groups, rural/urban areas, etc. were also important. The member of the secretariat also mentioned studies carried out on the participation of Malian and Liberian women in development 2/. The study on Mali revealed the inadequacy of official statistics on the role of women and proposed the preparation of a set of indicators. The member of the secretariat stressed the importance of the study carried out for the joint meeting of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Statistical Office held in New York from 11 to 15 April 1983.

59. The documents prepared for the meetings were of particular importance especially the FAO documents on the status of statistics on women and agriculture in the third world.

60. Considerable progress had been made with respect to indicators of women's participation in and contribution to socio-economic development but more efforts needed to be made to integrate the indicators identified into National Development Plans.

61. In his statement Professor El-Issawy said that provision had been made for making sex breakdowns in some of the groups of indicators identified in document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/9 especially for those indicators relating to mass participation.

62. He had agreements with the representative of the secretariat with respect to the insertion of other indicators on the role of women in the list annexed to the above-mentioned document. However, since it was a general document efforts should be made to keep sectoral indicators to a minimum.

Statistical requirements for development indicators (Agenda item 7)

63. Document E/ECA/SERPD/INDIC/2: "Development indicators: data requirements and availability" was made available under this agenda item. In introducing this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat noted that the question

---

1/ Meeting of experts to consider indicators on the Participation of Women in Socio-Economic Development.

2/ Women and the Fishing Industry in Liberia (ECA/ATRCW), 1979 et "les indicateurs socio-economiques de l'intégration des femmes au développement du Mali", (ECA/ATRCW; 1981).

of data requirements for development indicators should appropriately be considered in the light of the definition of development which in his opinion leaves a lot to be desired. He recalled Professor R. Stone's definition of a social indicator which combines both quantitative and qualitative aspects, as more representative of the nature of the concepts we are trying to prepare data for. He mentioned that developing countries have not placed much emphasis in the past on social indicators because they thought that priority should be given to other types of statistics. One of the social fields on which work has been done was population but he raised a lot of doubt as to the suitability of the population growth rate as a development indicator. Another field he referred to was income distribution and here again a lot of data has to be collected and collated before any meaningful indicator is developed. The representative of the secretariat said that for its part, ECA was making considerable efforts in adapting methodologies of data compilation for African countries and in improving the availability of data. He said that since 1970 the data position in the African region has improved tremendously. Work in progress in the three major fields of population and demographic statistics, household surveys and national accounts was expected to overcome many of the data problems for the construction of development indicators.

64. In the subsequent discussion, the representative of the secretariat was asked to elaborate on such issues as the incorporation of qualitative aspects in the compilation of development indicators, on the suggestion that emphasis on development indicators might act as a disincentive to statisticians to prepare the necessary data and on the use of income information as an indicator. In his explanation, the representative of the secretariat emphasised that quantitative differences could sometimes be deceptive in making comparisons between different countries and should therefore be supplemented by qualitative information. He also felt that data compilation had often not grown from the pertinent needs of the countries and this has resulted in a distortion in statistical priorities with all attendent disincentive implications on statisticians. Regarding information on income, he pointed out that indirect methods like expenditure methods are usually applied in African countries. One appropriate method is to obtain income information through household surveys but this has to be measured against costs and time involved and results are likely to be affected by the design and implementation of the surveys.

Recommendations and Conclusions (Agenda item 8)

65. There is an urgently felt need by most countries of the region for development indicators which are appropriate to the conditions of African countries on the one hand, and which reflect the specific concerns of African development planning, on the other hand.

66. These indicators should be designed in the framework provided by the concept and strategy of development expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action, which emphasize: (a) the satisfaction of basic needs; (b) national autonomy, self-reliance and independence; (c) collective self-reliance among African countries; (d) popular participation in development; (e) structural transformation conducive to self-sustaining development; (f) preservation of cultural heritage and reaffirmation of cultural identity; and (g) protection of the environment.

67. The indicators should not be simply "social indicators" for the description and monitoring of levels of living or sicial self-being, but should be "development indicators" which attempt to capture the essential components of development and which reflect the factors of the development process.

68. Development planning is a multi-level and multi-sectoral process, with the consequence that indicators may be developed for various levels of planning and for various sectors of the national economy, and sub-systems of indicators and sector-oriented indicators have their legitimate place in the planning process. But the most urgent task now is to develop overall development indicators for use at the national or sub-national level of planning and decision-making.

69. Basic statistics are essential for the compilation of meaningful development indicators and since existing statistics in most African countries are still inadequate in many respects, it may not be immediately practicable to measure all of the indicators that may be deemed desirable. However data shortages may not be as serious as commonly believed in view of the existence of a large body of underutilized and often unpublished data which are potentially useful, and on the other hand, African countries would be ill-advised to restrict the scope of development indicators to the range of data actually available at present, since on-going development of basic statistical data should be planned to take into account indicators requirements. Restricting the scope of indicators to presently available data, may prevent the full reflection of the concerns of African countries as expounded in the Lagos Plan of Action.

70. The demand for new data may not be as large as it appears at first sight, and African countries may follow a carefully designed step-wise programming approach to the adaptation of existing data and to the collection of additional information in order not to overtax their capacities for the collection and processing of statistics. It should nevertheless be understood that the additional statistical burdens which may result from the adoption of a relevant set of development indicators are part of the unavoidable price of the urgent task of going beyond conventional concepts of development and of transcending traditional approaches to the collection and processing of information.

71. After a review of the work carried out on socio-economic indicators by several international organizations and individual scholars, as well as a number of country experiences, it appeared that the present stage of social and development theories does not permit the construction of a system of indicators in the sense of an internally consistent and coherent body of indicators, and that it is more practicable to aim at constructing a set of indicators on the basis of the guiding principles and lessons that emerged from previous empirical work on development indicators.

72. It is highly unlikely that a single set of development indicators can be acceptable to all countries in the region and generally applicable in all countries. Each individual country must, in the final analysis, decide for itself the composition of the set of indicators that suits its conditions and priorities. Bearing these considerations in mind, the meeting proposes that the following set of indicators be considered as a framework for the development and utilization of development indicators in African countries. The structure of the set is as follows:

I. Basic needs

1. health, food and nutrition
2. education
3. housing and human settlements
4. social services

II. Employment, household expenditure, income and assets

1. labour force participation
2. household incomes and assets

III. Economic activity

1. institutional structure of production
2. macro-economic structure
3. economic growth
4. economic stability
5. investment
6. productivity and elimination of wastage

IV. Participation in development

1. popular participation in social and development activities
2. social cohesion and integration
3. social stratification and mobility
4. social stability

V. National autonomy

1. food security
2. endogenous technology
3. cultural development
4. economic and financial independence

VI. Collective self-reliance

VII. Demographic structures and trends

VIII. Environment and land use

IX. Information improvement

X. Special national concerns

73. The content and coverage of each of the indicator categories and sub-categories may vary from one country to the other in line with national circumstances and priorities, but since general guidance may be needed by many countries in the region as to the specific content of each indicator category, the meeting proposes that the attached list of development indicators be viewed as an illustrative or core list around which national lists might be built, and as a basis for further work at the regional and national levels.

74. The selection and compilation of socio-economic indicators of development must be closely linked to the improvement of basic data sources in the African countries and should be consistent to the extent possible with the basic conceptual frameworks for indicators and data collection on which international agreement has been reached in the United Nations system. In particular consideration should be given to the work done by various UN agencies with respect to indicators on human rights, popular participation and other important concerns.

75. Basic data sources for indicators are the population, housing, agricultural industrial and commercial censuses; household surveys covering, among other key topics, employment and economic activity, income assets and expenditure, small-scale enterprises and farming, demography, health and nutrition, education and culture and popular participation; industrial and commercial surveys; civil registration; and administrative records and special studies in such areas as land use, education, health, social insurance, public safety and taxes. Each country should prepare a priority list of socio-economic indicators for development, drawing on regional and international recommendations and guidelines and make every effort to ensure the priority development of the basic data sources to implement this list. Compilation and use of socio-economic indicators at the national level on a regular basis will: (a) enable each country to monitor and assess its development performance within an integrated planning framework and consider appropriate policy action; (b) point to significant data gaps and needs; (c) facilitate co-ordinated reporting to international agencies of progress achieved in respect

of internationally adopted goals, objectives and strategies. To ensure that women's concerns are fully taken into account, sex breakdowns should be provided as far as possible for the indicators.

76. Improvement of concepts and methods for socio-economic indicators of development must also be given high priority at national, regional and international levels, in order to take account of socio-economic circumstances and objectives in the African countries. Such improvements should be sought through the joint review by users and producers of statistics and indicators of indicator requirements for policy purposes in each field of statistics and indicators. Priority should be given to the review of concepts and methods, taking circumstances in the African countries into account, in the system of national accounts and in the fields of labour force and economic activity, income, consumption and accumulation of households, health and nutrition, small-scale household enterprises and agricultural activities, popular participation and the situation of women.

77. Indicator collection should be co-ordinated among the ECA secretariat and member countries in such a way that a regional indicator data base be established by the secretariat of the ECA which would be fed by information from member countries, t ese in turn would benefit from the standardisation provided by the set of indicators collected at the regional level. Such a set appears to fit naturally in the ECA statistical data base programme (PADIS-STAT and would be level 3 of that data base).

78. The ECA secretariat should establish as soon as feasible an indicator development programme, focussed on the study of the problems involved by indicator definition, selection and compilation and on the methodology of indicator use. Member countries should on their part start as soon as possible to set up their own indicator development programmes using the general framework proposed here. The ECA secretariat should carry out systematic studies on the experience thus accumulated in order to assist member countries. Once the ECA programme is well established and included in its normal work programme, meetings could be convened bringing together country experts from both users and producers of indicators and statistical information which would make it possible to develop and improve indicators and integrate their use in the process of development planning.

79. In order to avoid overtaxing the capabilities of national administrations and to ensure co-ordination and comparability, it would be crucial that the various international agencies co-operate fully in the development of indicators for African countries. In particular, ways and procedures should be established to ensure that work carried at the regional level be closely co-ordinated with the overall United Nations programme and the programmes of the various specialised agencies. One important way would be the establishment of specific projects for which resources could be pooled.

80. The meeting considers that the Socio-economic Research and Planning Division of the Secretariat should work in close collaboration with the Statistics Division as the co-ordinating point for indicators work at secretariat and regional levels.

APPENDIX

Proposed List of Indicators for Use by African Planners

The following symbols will be used in this appendix:

Disaggregation: n = national; r = rural; u = urban; g = geographical region; p = selected population groups (e.g. national, ethnic, socio-economic, etc); a = age; s = sex; / = and/or, as seems appropriate.

Frequency: Y = annual or more frequently; y+ = every 3 years or less frequently.

I. Basic needs

1. Health, food and nutrition

1. Infant mortality rate (y; n, r, u/g)
2. Child mortality rate (y; n, r, u/g)
3. Life expectancy, at birth and at age 4 (y+; n, r, u/g, p)
4. Incidence per 1000 persons of selected communicable diseases or proportion of total deaths caused by these diseases (y+; n, r, u/g)
5. Proportion of the population having access to safe water supply (y+; n, r, u/g)
6. Proportion of the population having access to selected sanitation facilities (Y+; n, r, u/g)
7. Proportion of the "5-14" population immunized against selected diseases (y+; n, r, u/g)
8. Hospital beds per 1000 persons as per cent of norm (y; n, r, u/g)
9. Proportion of the population in localities with hospital beds less than norm and x% less than norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
10. Medical personnel per 1000 person as per cent of norm (y; n,r, u/g)
11. Proportion of the population in localities with medical personnel less than norm and x% less than norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
12. Proportion of the population living within x km. of a health care unit (y+; n, r, u/g)
13. Proportion of the population covered by a health insurance scheme (y+; n, r, u/g)
14. Proportional mortality ratio (y; n, r, u/g)
15. Perception indicator of quality of health services (y+; n, r, u/g)
16. Total calorie intake per head per day as per cent of requirements (y; n, r, u/g)
17. Proportion of the population with calorie intake below norm and x% below norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
18. Total protein intake per head per day as per cent of requirements (y; n, r, u/g)

19. Proportion of the population with protein intake below norm and x% below norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
20. Proportion of total calories derived from cereals, roots, tuber, and sugars, compared with acceptable value (y+; n, r, u/g)
21. Proportion of the population with proportion of calories derived from cereals, roots, tubers and sugars, etc. below norm, and x% below norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
22. Ratio of cost of nutritionally adequate diet to total consumption expenditure for representative population groups (y+; n, r, u/g, p)
23. Proportion of the population unable to secure nutritionally adequate diet because of inadequancy of income (y+; n, r, u/g, p)
24. Proportion of the " ... " population with acute undernutrition (y+; n, r, u/g, p, a, s)
25. Proportion of the population with chronic undernutrition (Y+; n, r, u/g, p, a, s)
26. Proportion of the population with haemoglobin level below norm (y+; n, r, u/g, p, a, s)

2. Education

1. Proportion of the population illiterate (y+; n, r, u/g, a, s)
2. School enrolment; ratios for 1st, 2nd and 3rd levels and weighted average ratio (y; n, r, u/g)
3. Proportion of the 15+ population that has participated in non-formal education programmes last year (y+; n, g)
4. Drop-out ratio for 1st level of schooling (y; n, r, u/g)
5. Proportion of the population living within an agreed reasonable distance from various types of formal education institutions (y+; n, r, u/g)
6. Student/teacher ratio; for 1st, 2nd and 3rd levels and weighted average ratio (y; n, r, y/g)
7. Proportion of the population in localities with student/ teacher ratios below norm (y+; n, r, u/g)
8. Student/class ratio; for 1st, 2nd and 3rd levels and weighted average (y; n, r, u/g)
9. Proportion of 1st and 2nd level students having to rely on private tuition (y+; n, r, u/g)
10. Enrolment in private schools as per cent of total enrolment; 1st level only (y; n, r, u/g)
11. Vocational enrolment as per cent of total enrolment; 2nd level only (y; n, g)
12. Science and technology enrolment as per cent of total enrolment; 3rd level only (y; n)
13. Perception indicator of the relevance of education received to job; samples of 2nd and 3rd level graduates (y+; n).

3. Housing and human settlements

1. Ratio of number of families (y, n, r, u/g)
2. Proportion of the population living in housing units which are hardly fit for human habitation (squatter and shanty housing) (y+; n, r, u/g)
3. Proportion of marriages delayed due to inability to find an adequate dwelling (y+; n, r, u/g)
4. A composite indicator of the volume of services derived from the existing stock of dwellings (y+; n, r, u/g)
5. Proportion of the population living in dwellings at density of occupancy above norm, and also x% above norm (y+, n, r, u/g)
6. Proportion of occupied dwellings with indoor piped water or access to safe water supply within some reasonable distance (y+; n, r, n/g)
7. Proportion of occupied dwellings with selected sanitation facilities (y+; n, r, u/g)
8. Proportion of occupied dwellings with electric lighting (y+; n, r, u/g)
9. Housing expenditure as per cent of total consumption expenditure for selected population groups (y+; n, r, u/g, p)
10. Proportion of the population whose actual proportion spent on housing just exceeds the normal proportion, and also x% above that normal proportion (y+; n, r, u/g, p)

4. Social services

(To be defined)

II. Employment, household expenditures, income and assets

1. Labour force participation

1. Number and proportion of labour force members whose incomes from employment fall below poverty line income, and also those x% below that norm (y; n, r, u/g, a, s, occupation)
2. Number and proportion of labour force members working less than x hours per week or month (or days per year as seems appropriate) (y; n, r, u, a, s, occupation)
3. Labour force balances for the principal productive sectors (y; n, occupation)
4. Stocks and flows of migrant labour (y; n, occupation)
5. Mismatch of occupation and qualification for employed members of the labour force (y+; n, r, u)

2. Households expenditures, income and assets

1. Concentration of ownership of dwellings (proportion of the population owning a dwelling and proportion of owners owning more than one dwelling). (y; n, g)
2. Concentration of car ownership (proportion of the population owning motor cars, proportion of car owners owning more than one car, and proportion owning luxurious cars). y; n, g)
3. Concentration of hodings of financial assets, including shares, bonds, saving and investment certificates, saving deposits in local and foreign currencies, etc; fractile distribution and concentration coefficient (y; n)
4. Distribution of urban land ownership (y; n, g)
5. Proportion of families owning selected consumer goods (y+; n, r, u/g)
6. Distribution of agricultural land ownership and holdings (y+; r, g)
7. Proportion of rural population owning tractors, trucks, pumps, more than a certain number of heads of livestock, etc. (y+; r,g)
8. Distribution of household consumption expenditure (y; n, r, u)
9. Proportion of the population deprived, proportion below poverty line, and proportion x% below poverty line (y, n, r, u/g)
10. Relative share of wage incomes in GDP (y; n, agr. and non-agr. sectors)
11. Wage differentials across economic sectors and institutional sectors (y; n)
12. Rural-urban terms of trade (y; n)
13. Rate of inflation (y; n, r, u)
14. Trend in consumer subsidies as per cent of GDP and in real value of subsidies per capita (y; n)
15. Ratio of direct taxes to total tax revenues and to GDP (y; n)

III. Economic activity

1. Institutional structure of production

1. Distribution of firms according to number of employees (y; n, sectoral[
2. Proportion of the self-employed in the labour force (y; n, sectoral)
3. Distribution of land holdings according to size of holding (y+; n, g)
4. Proportion of cultivated land under co-operative management, communal or tribal control, etc. (y+; n, g)
5. Distribution of production units by form of ownership, e.e. domestic private and public, foreign private, joint ownership, etc (y ; n, sectoral)
6. Ratio of marketed output to total output (y+; n, sectoral)

2. Macroeconomic structure

1. Sectoral composition of GDP (y; n)
2. Composition of manufacturing output, i.e. relative share of capital, intermediate, and consumer goods (y; n)
3. Structure of household consumption, expenditure, i.e. relative share of necessities, semi-suxurious, and luxurious items (y; n, r, u)
4. Ratio of non-essential consumer goods imports to total imports (y; n, durables and non-durables)
5. Import content of gross domestic investment (y; n, sectoral)
6. Distribution of national expenditure, i.e. relative share of private and public consumption and savings (y; n)
7. Distribution of the economically active population by productive sector (y; n, r, u/g)
8. Proportion of wage earners in the labour force (y; n, r, u/g)
9. Ratio of managers, professionals, scientists and researchers, etc. to the total labour force (y; n and sectoral)

3. Economic growth

1. GDP growth rates, total and sectoral (y;n)
2. Percentage of GDP growth arising from the use-up of natural non-renewable resources (e;g; oil and minerals), externally-sensitive activities (e.g. tourism, international navigation, labour migration, foreign investment), and the like (y; n)

4. Economic stability

1. Rate of inflation or, if unreliable, budget deficit as per cent of GDP, rate of increase of money supply, and rate of increase of prices of imports (y; n)
2. Deficit in balance of payments current account as per cent of GDP (y; n)

5. Investment

1. Relative shares of productive sectors in total investment (y; n).

6. Productivity and elimination of wastage

1. Output per worker per unit of land and per unit of capital (y; n, sectoral)
2. Food losses as per cent of total food production (y+; n)
3. Idle capacity in major lines of production, particularly manufacturing, hotels, etc. (y; n and sectoral)
4. Reduction of energy losses (y+; n, r, u/g)
5. Reduction of land losses (y+; n, r, g)

IV. Participation in development

1. Popular participation in social and development activities

1. Ratio of registered voters to eligible voters (y; n, g, a, s)
2. Ratio of votes cast to registered voters in most recent national election or plebiscite (occasional; n, g, a, s)
3. Proportion of adult population joining voluntary associations, including trade unions, farmers associations, students unions, social welfare societies, youth and women clubs, etc. (y+; n, g, a, s)
4. Proportion of women in the labour force (y; n, r, u/g)
5. Age at first marriage for adult females (y; n, r, u)
6. Proportion of women literate (y+; n, r, u)
7. Proportion of youth participating in social, public works programmes, and similar activities (y+; n)

2. Social stability (to include human rights concerns)

1. The extend to which the country's national, ethnic, religious, etc. groups are represented in the government and parliament, etc. (y; n, p)
2. Proportion of sons and daughters 21 years of age and over of different socio-economic group than their parents at the same age (y+; n, p)
3. Proportion of the population covered by unemployment, health and other forms of social insurance and pension schemes (y; n)
4. Rate of homicides per 100,000 population (y; n, g)
5. Rate of assaults and robberies per 100,000 population (y; n, g)
6. Number of strikes, racial riots or incidents, political demonstrations, and the like (y; n, g)

3. Social cohesion and integration

To be defined, and to include equity

4. Social integration and mobility

To be defined

V. National autonomy

1. Food security

1. Ratio of domestic production to total requirements of major food products (y; n)
2. Food imports as per cent of total food consumption and of the deficit in the external current account (y; n)
3. Food reserves as per cent of total food production and consumption; major food items (y; n)
4. Countries supplying more than x% of total food imports (y; n)
5. Proportion of foreign resources (loans and grants) devoted to the importation of food products (y; n)

2. Endegenous technology

1. Proportion of nationals among researchers, managers, professionals, and teachers (y+; n)
2. Proportion of qualified scientists and researchers working abroad (y ; n)
3. Local experts as a proportion of total experts consulted by national firms and government agencies (y ; n)
4. Funds allocated to scientific research, including R&D, as per cent of GDP (y; n)
5. Percentage of genuine domestic manufacturing in selected industries (y; n)
6. Value of turn-key contracts as per cent of the total vlaue of contracts for the delivery of foreign equipment (y; n and selected sectors)
7. Number of endigenous innovations registered in the previous year (y; n and selected sectors)
8. Number of endigenous innovations utilized by local firms (y; n and selected sectors)

3. Cultural development

1. Newspaper circulation per 1000 population (y; n, g)
2. Proportion of families buying/reading a daily newspaper (y+; n, g)
3. Radio and TV sets in operation per 100 population (y; n)
4. Proportion of families having a radio and/or TV set (y ; n, r, u/g)
5. Book sales per 1000 population (y+; n)
6. Proportion of families buying/reading books (y+; n, r, u/g)
7. Number of cultural centres per 1000 population (y; n, g)
8. Proportion of population living within some reasonable distance of a cultural centre (y ; n, r, u/g)
9. Perception indicator of the relevance of the contents of radio and TV programmes from the viewpoint of development (y ; n, r, u/g)

10. Percentage of nationals working in foreign or externally-dominated enterprises, schools, embassies, export and import agencies, etc. (y; n and sector)
11. Proportion of pupils (1st level of schooling) enrolled in foreign or externally-dominated schools (y;n)
12. Foreign TV serial and films and Cinema pictures as per cent of total serials and films shown (y;n)
13. Cultural heritage books (republishing and popularization of original works) sold as per cent of total book sales (y; n)

4. Economic and financial independence

1. National savings as per cent of gross capital formation (y; n)
2. Imports as per cent of GDP (y; n)
3. Countries whose shares in total imports exceed tolerable levels (y; n)
4. Commodities accounting for more than a given percentage of total imports (y; n)
5. Foreign capital inflow as per cent of GDP (y; n)
6. Countries whose shares in total inflow of foreign capital exceed a specified upper limit (y; n)
7. Outstanding foreign debt as per cent of GDP (y; n)
8. Countries whose share in outstanding foreign debt exceeds a specified upper limit (y; n)
9. Debt service payments as per cent of total export earnings (y; n)
10. Import content of major goods and services domestically produced, e.g. important manufactures, petroleum sector, tourism, etc.) (y; n)
11. Exports as per cent of GDP (y; n)
12. Countries whose shares in total exports exceed a specified safety level (y; n)
13. Commodities accounting for more than a given percentage in total export earnings (y; n)
14. The value of exports without a domestic base as per cent of total exports. Export products of which less than 15% of production is retained for domestic uses are regarded as non-domestically based (y; n)
15. Foreign trade (exports imports) as per cent of GDP (y; n)
16. Value of production of transnationally controlled enterprises as per cent of total production (y; n and sectoral)
17. Foreigners' share in the capital of firms with assets exceeding an appropriate level (y; n and sectoral)
18. Relative share of the manufacturing sector in GDP (Y; n)
19. Relative share of the capital goods industries in total manufacturing output (y; n)
20. Degree of effective protection granted to domestically controlled production and exports (y; n)

VI. Collective self-reliance

1. Number of joint African projects in which the country is participating (y; sectoral)
2. Country's contribution in the capital of joint African projects as per cent of its gross domestic investment (y)
3. Trade with other African countries as per cent of the country's foreign trade (y; exports, imports and total)
4. African foreigners as per cent of total number of foreign visitors (y)
5. Resident African foreigners as per cent of total number of foreigners residing in the country (y)
6. Percentage of nationals visiting other African countries (y)
7. Nationals working in other African countries as per cent of total number of nationals working abroad (y)
8. Nationals taking part in joint African training projects as per cent of total number of nationals trained abroad (y)
9. Nationals participating in joint African research projects as per cent of total number of national researchers (y)
10. Foreign African experts as per cent of the total number of foreign experts consulted (y)
11. Nationals attending inter-African conferences as per cent of total number of nationals attending conferences abroad (y)

VII. Demographic structures and trends

1. Ratio of population living in selected localities to total population as compared with the maximum absorptive capacity of each locality (y)
2. Net internal migration (y+)
3. Proportion of population living in places with densities exceeding specified levels (y+; n, r, u, g)
4. Rate of population growth (y; n, r, u, g)
5. Proportion of population living in places with rates of growth exceeding rates of output growth (y+; n, r, u, g)
6. Crude birth rate (y, n, r, u, g)
7. Crude death rate (y, n, r, u, g)
8. Mortality rate for infants and 1-4 children (y, n, r, u, g)
9. Average age at first marriage (y, n, r, u, g, s)
10. Cumulative number of acceptors of birth control devices, or percentage of married women aged 15-44 years using birth control devices (y+; n, r, u, g)
11. Net international migration (y+; n)

VIII. Environment and land use

1. Ratio of production to reserves of oil and minerals, compared with safety ratios (y; n, types of raw materials)
2. Rate of use up of forest output, compared to safety rates (y; n)
3. Proportion of land area (including park and forest land) lost through urban encroachment, desertification, etc. (y; n, g)
4. Proportion of the population exposed to concentration of given air pollutants in excess of specified levels (y; selected locations)
5. Marine pollution levels as per cent of tolerable levels in selected locations (y; selected locations)

IX. Information improvement

1. Number of statistical surveys carried out each year (y; n, r, u)
2. Rate of increased of items covered by statistical surveys (y; n)
3. Proportion of land resources (surface and underground) for which reasonably adequate information is now available (y; n, g)
4. Proportion of surface and ground water resources for which reasonably adequate information is now available (y; n, g)
5. Information-users assessment of the extent of improvement in the information they use (y ; n, selected types of users)

X. Special national concerns

1. Progress achieved in the resettlement programme for a certain national, ethnic or disadvantaged group
2. Progress in the construction of underground metro-line in the capital city
3. The housing situation in a particular geographical region
4. Progress achieved in the electrification of the countryside
5. Progress achieved in the dissemination of a certain crop variety
6. Progress achieved in the land consolidation experiment of a certain group of villages